

Part 3, 1998 – 2012 By Barbara Richardson

Fay Shirley has written about the beginning to 1982 and was followed by Eula Malson with help of Hilda Cook, Cathy Felten, Bonnie Wooldridge and Diane Trobaugh presenting 1982 – 1998.

So what has transpired since that last update 1998 – 2012????

Educational Opportunities continue to grow for ANG with the addition of new programs.

Beginning in 1998 the Stitch of the Month (SOTM) program was introduced, with the first one presented by Beth Roberson. Each month a different stitch was introduced, discussed and at the end of the year the stitches were presented in a small geometric project. Now they are introduced with an outline of the finished project and a new stitch given each month, by the end of the year there is a finished project. Proven to be a very popular program for the members to learn and explore new stitched and projects. The designs are donated by the teacher to ANG for the purpose of a teaching project for all the membership to enjoy.

Carole H. Lake and Barbara A. Richardson taught the first CyberWorkshop in 1999 using the Louise Meier “Needlework Studio”. Louise’s husband donated this design to ANG so that it might be shared with the ANG membership. Each student was provided with entrance to their “classroom” -- a dedicated electronic mailing list which was password protected. The teacher posts the lessons and students can post questions/comments about the class. In addition stitched samples and charts can be shared with the student. This was the first attempt at teaching an online class and was embraced by the membership and continues on today. The class fee consists of a registration fee, materials fee that varies from class to class. The materials fee covers the instruction booklet and many teachers offer options of partial/full kits for the project.

To get more members involved with a seminar-level class, Workshop by Mail (WbM) was introduced. These pieces are worked at the students’ leisure; there is no classroom or deadline. In the beginning this was a class that had been offered previously by the teacher and for a short period was available to members. The fee covered the instruction and came with a pin designed specifically for the design being taught. There are options to use threads/canvas from your stash or to buy full or partial kits from the teacher. To start with only one per year was offered and the program has become so popular that more WbMs have been added to the yearly schedule of educational offerings.

Needle Pointers, an integral part of our needlepoint life has gone through several changes over the years. Beginning (1972-1976) our publication resembled newspaper editions with pictures of people, places and event and was four to eight pages. A new

format was introduced (1977-1980) with a change in size and paper quality, prompted by several factors. The new size could now be filed for ready reference in a standard notebook or letter file. This helps to facilitate postal handling permitting quicker delivery and fewer copies lost in the mail. The upgrades in the appearance of the newsletter were consistent with efforts to improve all Guild correspondence, adding enjoyment and advantage to membership. Still more changes came to ANG when, in 1980 and 1981, Sue and Phil Strause accepted the challenge of editing the Guild newsletter. It was expanded from a newsletter to a professional quality journal and they became the first editors of *Needle Pointers*, the magazine. From one of their editorials "This is YOUR journal. It will only be as good as YOU make it through YOUR contributions and its new name, *Needle Pointers*, reflects the fact that this journal will point out the many facets of canvaswork from its historical inception to its contemporary appreciation."

In the winter of 1981, Sue Strause moved to become the President of ANG and the editorship of *Needle Pointers* was given to Joyce Lukomski (1982-1998). From her first issue "This publication belongs to us all, it is the link that binds together our entire membership". Gradually there were projects, more pictures and articles chosen to interest all the membership. At first color was added to the front and back covers, then finally to the projects and articles themselves. As editor, Joyce continued to keep up with new and varied projects for all levels of needlepointers. Joyce bade ANG farewell in September of 1998 and shortly thereafter established another very successful needlepoint magazine, *Needlepoint Now*. Lisa Tench Bearden of Sunwest Publishing, Inc. became our publisher and ANG was indeed fortunate to find such capable hands to carry on the work of those who had started *Needle Pointers*. Today, *Needle Pointers*, brings us the articles, projects and guild news to keep all the membership updated and informed about that is new and ongoing in the world of needlepoint.

Other opportunities for education can be found in the Educational Directory or on the ANG website. Members can find information on Distance Learning Courses, and the Certification programs: Master Teacher Program, Judging Certification Program, Master Needle Artist Program and Needlepoint Appraisal Program. The Chapter Project Book continues to be published on an every other year schedule for our chapters to use in their programming and educational efforts.

Stitching the NASA patches is an ongoing project that was conceived by Barbara Edmonds (VA), a past Director of Education Services for ANG. Barbara began in 1997 with a call to NASA with her idea of having ANG membership involved in stitching reproductions of the mission patches. Peg Dunayer (TX) has hand painted all the patches to date and Barbra Lewis (AZ) was the first coordinator for the project. Once patches have been stitched they are sent on to SANSA for framing. Each framed patch has an attached brass plate with the stitcher's name and state. There was a grand reopening of the NASA visitors' center in May 2000, and members who had stitched a

patch were invited to attend the event. To date, 183 patches have been sent onto NASA and ANG continues this project today.

Currently there are 8176 members of ANG, 656 Life Patrons, 3347 Members-At-Large, 194 international members and 165 chapters. With the growing numbers in membership and the many volunteers that are needed to run the organization, ANG has hired a management company to help with many of the duties. Collecting membership dues, registration for seminars, locating/negotiations for seminar sites are just a few of the administrative details we rely on them for.

With so many members that now have computers the ANG website, www.needlepoint.org, provides information at their fingertips from finding chapters, updates on upcoming seminars and educational opportunities, to SOTM projects and information on the organization. Along with the website ANG also has a discussion list, yahoo groups, face book and an E-newsletter that is sent out every two month to keep all members updated on happenings.

With the help of teachers, both ANG certified and non-certified, a Teacher Checklist was developed in 2008 to establish a pay scale that recognizes not only those receiving ANG certification for their continuing education, but also for publications and years of service to needlepoint through teaching at both national and regional seminars.

In 2009 the national bylaws were updated with the help of a registered Parliamentarian, Diane Trobaugh (Past President), Sue Haines (past VP for Chapters/Areas) and the ANG Board of Directors. This new revision was approved by the membership effective May 1, 2010. Along with these bylaws a new organizational structure was established for ANG.

Seminars continue to be must attend events:

- 1999 – Atlanta, GA “Stitching Atlanta Style”
- 2000 – Kansas City, MO “Fountains and Fancywork”
- 2001 – Washington, D.C. “A Capitol Expedition”
- 2002 – Albuquerque, NM “ Southwest Enchantment”
- 2003 – Lexington, KY “Winning Stitches”
- 2004 – Reno, NV “Stitching with the Queen of Hearts”
- 2005 – Nashville, TN “Nashville Needle Notes”
- 2006 – Tucson, AZ “ Desert Tapestry”
- 2007 – Baltimore, MD “Stitching by the Bay”
- 2008 – Indian Wells, CA “Stitching with the Stars”
- 2009 – Milwaukee, WI “Nautical Needles”
- 2010 – Columbus, OH “Midwest Mosaics”
- 2011 – San Antonio, TX “Mission Stitch”

The ANG 40th anniversary will be celebrated in Philadelphia, RA “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”, on August 24 – 31st, 2012 with the Past Presidents as the Honorary

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

Chairmen. In preparing for this event past presidents and past board members are working on projects that will be in the auction for 2012. Involvement in getting the work done for this seminar includes numerous local, Cyber Chapter members and members from around the country, all pitching in their stitching talents.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara A. Richardson, Past President (2008 – 2010)